

CHAPTER 12

SECTION 2.3

TRICARE OVERSEAS PROGRAM (TOP) - COSTS AND UNIFORM HMO BENEFITS

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I. TRICARE OVERSEAS PROGRAM BENEFITS AND COSTS

A. Services and supplies which otherwise fall within the range of TRICARE/CHAMPUS benefits, including enhanced benefits, prescription drugs and durable medical equipment which are not specifically excluded by the 32 CFR 199 Regulation may be cost-shared under the TRICARE Overseas Program when:

1. The diagnosis or description of illness supports the reasonableness of the procedure and is commonly accepted practice in a host country or region:
2. A nonavailability statement (NAS) is submitted with a claim for nonemergency inpatient care when the TRICARE/CHAMPUS beneficiary resides within an overseas catchment area (usually a 40-mile radius) of a Uniformed Services Medical Treatment Facility (USMTF), when applicable. Effective September 23, 1996, requirement for NAS does not apply to TRICARE Overseas Program Prime enrollees and is replaced with an authorized referral from the PCM.

NOTE: Overseas catchment areas for USMTFs outside the United States are defined in the Catchment Area Directory Overseas, or maps provided by the Military Departments. An NAS issued by a USMTF outside the United States will not be valid for care received in a civilian facility within the United States. Also, an NAS issued by a USMTF inside the United States will not be valid for care received in a civilian facility outside the United States.

B. Waiver of rigid application by the TRICARE Overseas Managed Care Support contractor of the requirements for processing/review of claims has been granted by the TMA, Director to overcome variations between U.S. standards of health care practice and standards of health care practice in foreign countries. Examples of these variations are: 1) prescription drugs and durable medical equipment do not require Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval for cost-sharing; 2) TRICARE Overseas Program foreign providers, network and non-network are not required to meet the TRICARE/CHAMPUS provider certification requirements for certification; 3) cost-sharing of prescription ordered mud baths; or 4) charges from ambulance companies for driving physicians to accidents or private residence.

C. Payment/processing of TRICARE Overseas Program claims will follow the procedures outlined in [OPM Part Two, Chapter 22](#).

D. Copayments under the TRICARE Overseas Program shall be as follows:

1. TRICARE Overseas Standard services and supplies rendered to TRICARE Overseas Program eligibles under the TRICARE Overseas Standard are subject to the deductibles, copayments and cost-shares set forth in [32 CFR 199.4](#), for basic benefits and [32 CFR 199.5](#) for benefits available overseas under the Program for Persons with Disabilities.
2. Services and supplies rendered to TRICARE Overseas Program beneficiaries who are enrolled in TRICARE Overseas Prime will have co-payments and deductibles waived for dates of service on or after October 1, 1996 through September 30, 1997.
3. Services and supplies rendered to TRICARE Overseas Program eligible beneficiaries who have taken specific action to enroll/reenroll in TRICARE Overseas Program Prime will continue to have copayments and deductibles waived for dates of service on or after October 1, 1997.
4. Waiver of copayments and deductibles under TRICARE Overseas Program Prime are subject to review and updating based on enrollment status. See the attached Table for additional information on the benefits and costs under the TRICARE Overseas Program.

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